



Oregon Trail Computer Game Comes ALIVE in September

For Immediate Release

WHAT: Oregon Trail Live

WHEN: Saturday, September 29. Please note: Check-in starts at NOON. Competition starts at 1:00 pm.

WHERE: Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR 97301, 503-585-7012

COST: See Below

Media Contact: Kelly Williams Brown, oregontrailgamelive@gmail.com, www.oregontraillive.com

Dying of dysentery* will reach new heights of fun this September when the beloved Oregon Trail computer game comes to life at Oregon Trail Live.

On September 29, teams of four will face challenges like hunting, grave digging, caulking and floating their wagons (actually cleverly decorated take-out containers) and carrying 200 pounds of meat.

Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill (WHC), in conjunction with the *Statesman Journal*, Culture Shock Community Project, Willamette University, the Cherry City Derby Girls, Courthouse Athletics, Salem Summit Co., and more have teamed up for the day, which also includes a hoe-down after party.

For those who wish to get a taste of the punishing physicality that results from walking across the country, Courthouse Athletic Club will offer the Grueling Pace Challenge, with period-somewhat-accurate tasks like carrying wood and doing old-timey calisthenics.

Costumes, team names, and a healthy can-do pioneer spirit are all highly encouraged.

Between tasks, competitors and spectators can learn about Oregon history on the five-acre museum grounds, which celebrated the Willamette Valley's pioneer and industrial heritage with 14 historic buildings that encompass the saga and richness of the state's past.

Team of four (or two adults and up to three children) cost \$20 for the early-bird registration period (Aug. 6 to 20); \$30 for regular registration (Aug. 21 to Sept. 22) and \$50 day-of, if slots are available. There is an additional \$10 cost to participate in the Grueling Pace Challenge. Registration is limited to 40 teams, so sign up now. Spectators are free. Admission into the post-Trail hoe-down is free for trail participants, and otherwise costs \$5 advance or \$7 at the door. Tickets and registration are available through Brown Paper Tickets.

Registration begins at noon and challenges start at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29 at WHC, 1313 Mill St. SE in Salem, Oregon. For more information, go to www.oregontraillive.com or call (503) 585-7012.

This event is also sponsored, in part, by a City of Salem TOT Grant and is part of the WHC's Family Fun Festivals.

* IMPORTANT NOTE: No one will *actually* die of dysentery.

The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit <http://www.willametteheritage.org>. *The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.*

Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing, cclark@auramarketing.com ###